

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A purified polypeptide immunogen consisting of either (a) an amino acid sequence at least ~~[[90%]]~~ 94% identical to SEQ ID NO: 3, or (b) a fragment of said amino acid sequence at least ~~[[90%]]~~ 94% identical to SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein said fragment comprises an amino acid sequence at least ~~[[90%]]~~ 94% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1; wherein said polypeptide immunogen provides protective immunity against *S. aureus*.

Claims 2-3 (canceled):

Claim 4 (currently amended): The polypeptide immunogen of claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of an amino acid sequence at least 94% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3 or SEQ ID NO: 42.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A polypeptide immunogen consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: ~~[[NOs]]~~ 1, 3, 7, 17, 20, or 42, each with up to 20 additional amino acids, wherein the up to ~~additional~~ 20 additional amino acids can be located at the carboxyl or the amino terminus.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 5 wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: ~~[[NOs]]~~ 1, 3, 7, 17, 20, or 42.

Claim 7 (previously presented): An immunogen consisting of an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1 and one or more additional regions or moieties covalently joined to said sequence at the carboxyl terminus or the amino terminus, wherein each of said one or more additional regions or moieties is independently selected from a region or moiety having at least one of the following properties: enhances the immune response, facilitates purification, or facilitates polypeptide stability.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A composition able to induce a protective immune response against *S. aureus* in a patient comprising an immunologically effective amount of a purified polypeptide immunogen that provides protective immunity against *S. aureus* and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the polypeptide immunogen consists of either (a) an amino acid sequence at least ~~[[90%]]~~ 94% identical to SEQ ID NO: 3, or (b) a fragment of said amino acid sequence at least ~~[[90%]]~~ 94% identical to SEQ ID NO: 3, where said fragment comprises an amino acid sequence at least ~~[[90%]]~~ 94% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 9 (original): The composition of claim 8, wherein said composition further comprises an adjuvant.

Claims 10-32 (canceled):

Claim 33 (currently amended): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 1 ~~[[3]]~~, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is SEQ ID NO: 1 or differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 25 amino acid alterations.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 33, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is SEQ ID NO: 1 or differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 10 amino acid alterations.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 34, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is SEQ ID NO: 1 or differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 5 amino acid alterations.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The polypeptide immunogen of claim 6 ~~[[35]]~~, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 37 (canceled):

Claim 38 (currently amended): The composition of claim 8 [[37]], wherein said polypeptide immunogen is substantially purified and said patient is a human.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The composition of claim 8, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is SEQ ID NO: 1 or differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 25 amino acid alterations.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The composition of claim 39, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is substantially purified and said patient is a human.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The composition of claim 8, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is SEQ ID NO: 1 or differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 10 amino acid alterations.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The composition of claim 41, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is substantially purified and said patient is a human.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The composition of claim 8, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is SEQ ID NO: 1 or differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 5 amino acid alterations.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The composition of claim 43, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is substantially purified and said patient is a human.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The composition of claim 8, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The composition of claim 45, wherein said polypeptide immunogen is substantially purified and said patient is a human.

Claim 47 (currently amended): The composition of claim 8, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: [[NOs:]] 1, 3, 7, 17, 20, or 42,

each with up to 20 additional amino acids, wherein the ~~up to additional 20 additional~~ amino acids can be located at the carboxyl or the amino terminus.

Claim 48 (currently amended): The composition of claim 47, wherein said polypeptide immunogen consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: [[NOs:]] 1, 3, 7, 17, 20, or 42.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The immunogen of claim 7, wherein said amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 1 or differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 25 amino acid alterations.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The immunogen of claim 49, wherein said amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 1 or differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 10 amino acid alterations.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The immunogen of claim 50, wherein said amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 1 or differs from SEQ ID NO: 1 by up to 5 amino acid alterations.

Claim 52 (previously presented): The immunogen of claim 51, wherein said amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 53 (currently amended): The immunogen of claim 7, wherein said amino acid sequence consists of SEQ ID NO: [[NOs:]] 1, 3, 7, 17, 20, or 42, each with up to 20 additional amino acids, wherein the ~~up to additional 20 additional~~ amino acids can be located at the carboxyl or the amino terminus.

Claim 54 (currently amended): The immunogen of claim 53, wherein said amino acid sequence consists of SEQ ID NO: [[NOs:]] 1, 3, 7, 17, 20, or 42.